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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. April 15, 1954 SS 137

April 1 Conditions

Field preparations were mostly advanced on April 1, but severe March weather had retarded vegetative growth. Lack of reserve moisture in the subsoil was still causing concern, although some improvement had occurred in March. Surface moisture was generally adequate, except in the dry Southwest, and fields were in satisfactory to ideal condition for plowing, preparing seed-beds and for seeding. Some snow remained in northernmost farming areas, but as soils were largely unfrozen, it was melting rapidly and soaking in with little run-off. Snow in western mountain areas and drenching rain in Arizona improved irrigation water prospects, but in some central and southern portions supplies will be short.

Winter Wheat Prospects Down

The winter wheat crop is forecast at 678 million bushels—down 72 million bushels from December 1 prospects. The crop would be 23 percent smaller than the 1953 crop and 19 percent below average.

Rye Condition Below Average

The condition of the rye crop on April 1 was 82 percent of normal—the same as a year ago, but 4 points below average. Acreage seeded to rye last fall was 22 percent above the acreage seeded for the 1953 crop and only slightly below the 10-year average.

April 1 Stocks of Grain on Farms

Farm stocks of feed grains April 1 were 2 percent larger than a year earlier, and about 11 percent above average. In terms of supply per grain-consuming animal unit to be fed, current farm stocks exceed April 1 tonnages in any other year of record except 1949 and 1950.

Corn stocks—1,469 million bushels—slightly larger than a year earlier and a sixth above average for April 1.

Oats—450 million bushels—nearly the same as a year ago, but 9 percent below average.

Barley—75 million bushels—nearly a third more than a year earlier, but 8 percent below average.

Wheat—298 million bushels—a tenth more than a year earlier and a third more than average.

Flaxseed—14 million bushels—largest stocks in the 7 years of comparable record.

Soybeans—37 million bushels—smallest April 1 stocks since 1948.

Rye—5.4 million bushels—largest April 1 stocks since 1945.

Pasture Condition Poor

Early season pasture feed this year was off to the poorest start since 1940. On April 1, the condition of farm pastures for the country as a whole averaged 73 percent of normal compared with 81 percent a year earlier, and the 1943-52 average of 83 percent. Outside the southwestern drought area, soil moisture was mostly ample to start new feed and prospects are for improve-

ment with the coming of warmer weather. The April 1 average condition of ranges is the lowest reported since 1935.

Peach Crop Condition Below Average

Peaches in the 10 Southern States on April 1 were reported at 61 percent of a full crop, 19 points below the April 1, 1953 condition and 8 points below the April 1 average.

Citrus

Florida citrus trees are in excellent condition.

Texas citrus trees are holding a good set of fruit from a very heavy bloom.

Arizona citrus trees suffered some damage from March frosts. Supplies of irrigation water are now ample for several months.

California citrus crop generally benefited from March rains.

Potato Acreage Smaller

Estimated acreage of winter and spring commercial potatoes as of April 1, and prospective summer-crop acreage indicate a total of 207,000 acres of early commercial potatoes in 1954—25 percent less than last year.

Truck Crops Above Average

Spring vegetable and melon production will be well above last spring with total acreage 9 percent larger than last year and 19 percent above average.

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Mar. 1954
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	256
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates	1910-14=100	283
Parity ratio	1910-14=100	90
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	1/ 507
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	2/ 103
Retail prices of food	1947-49=100	2/ 113
Weekly factory earnings	1947-49=100	2/ 137
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Mar. 1953	Jan.-Mar. 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.)	27.5	28.9
Eggs, (bil.)	17.0	17.5
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 1,376	3/ 1,534
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)...	3/ 115	3/ 113
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.).....	3/ 1,979	3/ 1,583
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 3,571	3/ 3,353

1/ April 1954 figure.

2/ February 1954 figures.

3/ January-February under Federal inspection.

Milk Production Continues High

March milk production showed about the usual seasonal increase over February. Total March output of 10,713 million pounds was 5 percent above last year's previous all-time high for the month, and 12 percent above the 1943-52 average. Continued heavy supplemental feeding to the increased number of cows in milking herds contributed to the record outturn. January-March milk production is 4.8 percent above the first quarter 1953 production.

More Eggs Than A Year Ago

A 3 percent increase in the number of layers in farm flocks coupled with a record high rate of lay for the month raised March egg production 5 percent above last March. Production in the first quarter totaled 17.5 billion eggs—3 percent more than a year earlier.

More Chicks and Young Chickens

Chicks and young chickens of this year's hatch on farms April 1 are estimated at about 254 million, a record high for this date—19 percent more than a year earlier and 22 percent above average.

Fewer Turkeys Produced in 1953

Turkey production in 1953 totaled 56,316,000 birds—7 percent less than in 1952. The average price received for turkeys sold in 1953 was 33.6 cents per pound, live weight, the same as in 1952. Growers' cash receipts from turkeys in 1953 were about 318 million dollars—7 percent less than in 1952.

Dairy and Poultry Products—February

Item	February 1954	Percentage change—	
		Feb. 1954 from Feb. 1953	Jan.-Feb. 1954 from Jan.-Feb. 1953
	Millions	Percent	Percent
Chicks hatched 1/	191	+ 12	+ 11
Chicks placed 2/	62	+ 7	+ 7
Poults hatched: 1/			
Heavy breeds	3.2	+ 12	+ 19
Light breeds	1.7	+ 40	+ 62
	Thous.		
Turkey breeders tested:			
Heavy breeds	3/ 27.1	3/ - 12	4/ - 2
Light breeds	3/ 40.7	3/ + 230	4/ + 49
	1,000 pounds		
Poultry canned	16,273	+ 1	+ 5
Production:			
Liquid egg	47,711	+ 2	+ 20
Dried egg (egg solids)	1,865	+ 60	+ 121
Frozen egg	36,174	- 10	+ 5
Evaporated whole milk	156,900	- 1	- 2
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food)	102,300	+ 26	+ 29
Butter, creamery	115,910	+ 13	+ 12
Cheese, American	70,810	+ 18	+ 21
	1,000 gallons		
Ice cream	38,620	+ 2	- 3

1/ By commercial hatcheries.
2/ 14 principal producing areas.
3/ March.
4/ July-March.

Farm Employment Rises Seasonally

In late March, 7,278,000 persons were at work on farms, nearly a million more than a month earlier. There were 2 percent fewer persons working on farms in March this year than a year ago. The decrease is partly due to an earlier season a year ago and unfavorable weather in some parts of the country during the survey week this year.

Farm Wage Rates About Same As Year Earlier

Farm wage rates on April 1 were about the same as a year earlier for the country as a whole. Wage rates were higher than last year in the Northeast and the South Atlantic States, about the same in the South Central States, and down in the North Central States and in the West.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Mar. 1953	Feb. 1954	Mar. 1954
Prices received by farmers....	264	258	256
Crops	252	237	239
Food grains	247	236	238
Feed grains and hay	215	208	208
Tobacco	424	443	443
Cotton	268	258	263
Fruit	209	210	212
Com. veg. for fresh mkt.	267	233	246
Oil-bearing crops	291	269	275
Livestock and products	274	277	271
Meat animals	301	315	316
Dairy products	276	267	257
Poultry and eggs	217	208	188
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	265	264	264
Commodities used in living	269	271	272
Commodities used in production	261	255	255
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	282	282	283
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to prices paid by farmers)	94	91	90

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and Unit	Average Price		Parity Price
	Feb. 15 1954	Mar. 15 1954	Mar. 15 1954
Wheat, bu. dol.	2.06	2.09	2.49
Corn, bu. dol.	1.43	1.44	1.81
Peanuts, lb. ct.	11.2	11.1	13.5
Cotton, lb. 1/ ct.	30.42	31.05	34.97
Potatoes, bu. dol.	.653	.532	1.53
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	25.30	24.70	20.80
Beef cattle, 100 lb. dol.	16.20	16.60	21.20
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	18.10	17.90	23.40
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	19.10	20.90	23.10
Butterfat, lb. ct.	65.1	62.8	75.0
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. dol.	4.21	2/ 4.01	4.75
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	22.4	23.1	30.0
Eggs, doz. ct.	45.7	38.7	47.0

1/ American upland cotton.
2/ Preliminary.

Loans to Farmers held by Insured Commercial Banks

The amount of loans to farmers held by insured commercial banks (excluding price support loans guaranteed by the Commodity Credit Corporation) were lower at the end of 1953 than a year earlier. Non-real-estate farm loans declined 13.4 percent whereas real estate loans increased 2.6 percent.

Agricultural loans of insured commercial banks by regions, on December 31, 1953 compared with amount on December 31, 1952

Region	Farm real estate loans		
	Dec. 31, 1953	Dec. 31, 1952	Percentage change
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	Percent
Northeast	131,789	124,066	+ 6.2
North Central	448,162	443,677	+ 1.0
South	337,527	322,321	+ 4.7
West	142,368	142,979	- 0.4
United States	1,059,846	1,033,043	+ 2.6
Non-real-estate loans to farmers 1/			
Northeast	186,909	183,689	+ 1.8
North Central	1,261,754	1,491,331	- 15.4
South	668,213	756,129	- 11.6
West	585,590	689,783	- 15.1
United States	2,702,466	3,120,932	- 13.4

1/ Excluding loans guaranteed by Commodity Credit Corporation.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States 1/

Source	Feb. 1954	Mar. 1954 ^{2/}
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans ^{3/}	1,928	2,000
Livestock and products	1,264	1,400
Meat animals	680	
Dairy products	297	
Poultry and eggs	267	
Other	20	
Crops	664	600
Food grains	126	
Feed crops	182	
Cotton (lint and seed)	132	
Oil-bearing crops	17	
Tobacco	20	
Vegetables	70	
Fruits and tree nuts	55	
Other	62	
Government payments	14	
Total cash receipts	1,942	

1/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, Feb. 1954 1/2/

State and Region	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.
Maine	7,570	3,947	11,517
New Hampshire	4,248	698	4,946
Vermont	6,885	713	7,598
Massachusetts	10,181	3,173	13,354
Rhode Island	1,415	408	1,823
Connecticut	9,313	4,646	13,959
New York	41,936	10,471	52,407
New Jersey	17,253	3,482	20,735
Pennsylvania	44,741	10,788	55,529
North Atlantic	143,542	38,326	181,868
Ohio	52,821	18,240	71,061
Indiana	58,627	17,663	76,290
Illinois	86,169	36,738	122,907
Michigan	28,440	14,021	42,461
Wisconsin	72,546	8,703	81,249
East North Central	298,603	95,365	393,968
Minnesota	77,274	28,026	105,300
Iowa	156,928	29,860	186,788
Missouri	51,567	8,346	59,913
North Dakota	8,619	17,725	26,344
South Dakota	30,638	13,031	43,669
Nebraska	61,289	26,766	88,055
Kansas	43,847	31,993	75,840
West North Central	430,162	155,747	585,909
Delaware	5,544	947	6,491
Maryland	11,328	2,146	13,474
Virginia	15,667	6,652	22,319
West Virginia	5,929	2,329	8,258
North Carolina	15,069	9,002	24,071
South Carolina	6,111	6,270	12,381
Georgia	18,265	10,144	28,409
Florida	8,758	40,808	49,566
South Atlantic	86,671	78,298	164,969
Kentucky	15,015	7,612	22,627
Tennessee	14,663	11,158	25,821
Alabama	12,579	7,974	20,553
Mississippi	11,062	17,708	28,770
Arkansas	12,019	16,815	28,834
Louisiana	7,608	8,770	16,378
Oklahoma	18,374	8,463	26,837
Texas	53,642	42,674	96,316
South Central	144,962	121,174	266,136
Montana	7,764	11,121	18,885
Idaho	9,208	8,500	17,708
Wyoming	4,363	892	5,255
Colorado	23,180	9,048	32,228
New Mexico	3,890	5,978	9,868
Arizona	6,517	20,735	27,252
Utah	8,494	1,745	10,239
Nevada	2,406	424	2,830
Washington	11,627	28,883	40,510
Oregon	10,485	12,538	23,023
California	72,422	74,957	147,379
Western Region	160,356	174,821	335,177
United States	1,264,296	663,731	1,928,027

1/ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

2/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost 1/	Farm value 2/	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average	\$1,002	\$452	\$550	45%
1953 - Feb.	992	450	542	45
1954 - Jan. 3/	1,006	452	554	45
Feb. 4/	998	447	551	45

1/ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

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